



Attention Providers!

Medicare will delay claims payments during the last 9 days of fiscal year 2006 (September 22 through September 30). For complete details, see MLN Matters article MM4349 at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM4349.pdf>.

MLN Matters Number: MM5201

Related Change Request (CR) #: 5201

Related CR Release Date: August 11, 2006

Effective Date: January 1, 2007

Related CR Transmittal #: R1026CP

Implementation Date: January 2, 2007

MMA - Medicare Telehealth Services

Provider Types Affected

Method II Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs) who bill Medicare fiscal intermediaries (FIs) for telehealth services and telehealth originating sites that bill the Medicare FI.

Provider Action Needed

CR5201, from which this article was taken announces (effective January 1, 2007) a correction to the payment amount regarding telehealth services when the distant site practitioner is located in a critical access hospital (CAH) that has elected Method II and the physician or practitioner has reassigned his or her benefits to the CAH. In this situation, Medicare FIs will make payment for the telehealth service at 80% of the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (MPFS) and **not** according to the optional payment method as discussed in the *Medicare Claims Processing Manual*, Chapter 4, Section 250.2. This chapter of the manual is available at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Manuals/IOM/list.asp> on the CMS web site. Chapter 12 of the same manual includes further telehealth information.

Also, in accordance with the Medicare telehealth originating site payment methodology, Medicare FIs will make payment to originating sites at the lesser of 80% of the actual charge or the originating site facility fee. The originating site facility fee was established by section 1834(m) of the Social Security Act at \$20 and is adjusted annually by the Medicare Economic Index.

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This article was prepared as a service to the public and is not intended to grant rights or impose obligations. This article may contain references or links to statutes, regulations, or other policy materials. The information provided is only intended to be a general summary. It is not intended to take the place of either the written law or regulations. We encourage readers to review the specific statutes, regulations and other interpretive materials for a full and accurate statement of their contents.

Additional Information

You can find more information about billing telehealth services, including revised portions of Chapter 12 of the *Medicare Claims Processing Manual*, by going to CR5201, located at

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Transmittals/downloads/R1026CP.pdf> on the CMS website. Additional telehealth instructions are available in Chapter 15, Section 270, of the *Medicare Benefit Policy Manual* at

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Manuals/IOM/list.asp> on the CMS web site.

If you have any questions, please contact your FI at their toll-free number, which may be found at

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/CallCenterTollNumDirectory.zip> on the CMS web site.

Flu Shot Reminder

September is the perfect time to start talking with your patients about getting the flu shot. Medicare provides coverage for the flu vaccine and its administration. Please encourage your Medicare patients to take advantage of this vital benefit. And don't forget – health care professionals and their staff benefit from the flu vaccine also.

Protect Yourself. Protect Your Patients. Get Your Flu Shot.

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